

SINGLETON & ANDREWS.

JANUARY 20, 1832.

Mr. CAVE JOHNSON, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Wyatt Singleton and James Andrews, report:*

That the petitioners claim settlement rights in that section of Louisiana, lying between the river Sabine and the Rio Hondo, usually known by the name of the "neutral territory," and prove that they settled on the same in 1818, made improvements, and cultivated them that year, and that possession and cultivation has been ever since continued. They say they did not file their claims before the commissioners, because they were ignorant of the law, and the necessity of so doing.

By an act of Congress, passed the 3d March, 1823, the section of the country between the Sabine and Rio Hondo, is attached to the land district south of Red river, and the Register and Receiver are directed "to receive and record all written evidences of claim to land in said tract of country derived from, and issued by, the Spanish Government of Texas, prior to the 20th of December, 1803;" and also to "receive and record all evidences of claim founded on occupation, habitation and cultivation," designating "the time and manner in which each tract was occupied, inhabited and cultivated, prior to and on the 22d February, 1819, and the continuance thereof subsequent to that time;" and the Register and Receiver were further directed to transmit, to the Secretary of the Treasury, a report of all applications to him under four distinct heads.

- 1st. All complete titles from Spanish Government.
- 2d. All claims founded on written evidence, but not completed.
- 3d. All claims founded on habitation, occupation or cultivation previous to the 22d February, 1819.
- 4th. All the claims, which, in their opinion, ought to be rejected.

In pursuance of the report made by the Register and Receiver to the Secretary of the Treasury, agreeably to the provisions of the preceding act, all persons claiming title by virtue of settlement, occupation or cultivation, prior to the 22d February, 1819, were confirmed in their claims to a tract of 640 acres, each, by an act of Congress, passed on the 16th day of May, 1826.

The committee are of opinion, that the present applicants would have been entitled to their settlement claims, if the same had been presented to the Register and Receiver of the Land Office, while acting under the act of 1823; and that the same would have been allowed them, and they do not think that their right should be forfeited from this omission to do so, whether the same originated in ignorance or neglect; and they therefore report a bill for their relief.

# REPORT

1890-1891

On the condition of the country in 1890-1891

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